

*State of California*  
**QUALIFIED APPLICATOR CERTIFICATE**  
**PEST CONTROL CATEGORIES**  
REV. 5/07

DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION  
PEST MANAGEMENT AND LICENSING BRANCH  
1001 I Street  
P.O. Box 4015  
Sacramento, California 95812-4015  
Phone: (916) 445-4038 Fax: (916) 445-4033  
Web site at <<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>>

---

**Retain for your information.**

***Purpose***

This document provides general information to help applicators identify the most appropriate category for the type of pest control they will be performing. Contact the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) with questions.

***Qualified Applicator Certificate Category Descriptions***

**A. Residential, Industrial and Institutional.**

This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides to control pests in human dwellings, industrial establishments (including packing plants, food manufacturing and processing plants, warehouse, grain elevators and factories) or institutions (including schools, hospitals, and office buildings). Also included in this category are non-landscaped outside areas (such as storage yards, tank farms, or electrical substations) directly related to the operation of buildings or facilities. *This category does not cover the use of pesticides for landscape maintenance.*

**NOTE:** Structural pest control for hire is not allowed within the scope of this category. Structural pest control involves the control of pests, which may invade households or other structures. A business involved in structural pest control for hire is licensed by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Structural Pest Control Board. For more information, write to the Structural Pest Control Board, 1422 Howe Avenue, Suite 3, Sacramento, California 95825-3280; or call (916) 263-2544.

**B. Landscape Maintenance.**

This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides to control pests in natural or planted ornamental and turf landscaped areas and other outside areas around buildings. Typical areas included in this category are residential yards (including home gardens and orchards), recreation areas, schoolyards, vacant lots, storage yards, greenbelts, and other similar sites. It also includes landscaped street medians and sidewalk areas, and areas such as walkways and parking lots directly related to landscaped areas. In addition, this category covers landscaped areas in enclosed shopping malls and indoor plants. *This category does not include direct application to running or standing water.*

**NOTE:** Maintenance Gardeners who apply any pesticide (restricted use and/or general use) incidental to their gardening business must obtain a Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License (PR-PML-004) (Rev. 10/03). To qualify for this business license, the gardener needs a Qualified Applicator Certificate with the Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Category (Q) or the landscape maintenance pest control Category (B). This business license limits the gardener to incidental pest control in ornamental and turf planting indoors and outdoors, in commercial parks, or surrounding structures. The Department considers “commercial parks” and “surrounding structures” to mean the following:

- A “commercial park” is a tract of land where several commercial establishments (e.g., stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses, factories) are located. Business parks, industrial parks, office parks, and shopping centers or malls are considered commercial parks.
- Plantings “surrounding structures” are ornamental and turf plantings that are incidental to and placed near or close to structures such as buildings, brick walls, fountains, fences, statutes, etc.

The Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License does not include pest control work in areas such as on golf courses, parks, cemeteries, or similar areas.

- C. **Right-of-Way.** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides to control pests in the the maintenance of roads, highways, power lines, telephone lines, pipelines, canals, railroads or other similar sites. It also includes landscaped right-of-way areas. This category does not include direct application to running or standing water.
- D. **Plant Agriculture.** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides to control pests in the production of food, feed, fiber or ornamental crops as well as on grasslands and noncrop agricultural areas. It also includes applications to rice and similar crops grown in wet or flooded fields. This category does not cover applications to running or standing water.
- E. **Forest.** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides to control pests in forest, forest nurseries, and forest seed-producing areas. This category does not include direct applications to running or standing water.
- F. **Aquatic.** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides to control pests in or on standing or running water. This category does not include the use of restricted use pesticides for Health Related, Regulatory, Demonstration and Research, Sewer Line Root pest control purposes or applications to rice and similar crops grown in wet or flooded fields.
- G. **Regulatory.** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides in official government programs for the control of regulated pests.
- H. **Seed Treatment.** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides to protect seed for planting.
- I. **Animal Agriculture.** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides to control pests on animals and the facilities in which the animals are confined.
- J. **Demonstration and Research.** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of a restricted use pesticide when demonstrating proper application techniques or conducting field research. This category is not required of applicators who demonstrate proper techniques provided they hold all specific categories covering the type of pest control being performed.
- K. **Health Related.** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides in official programs for the management and control of pests having medical and public health importance.

L. **Wood Preservation (Subcategory of A and C).** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides to control pests that damage wood. This category includes wood preservation application within the scope of Residential, Industrial and Institutional, and Right-of-Way pest control categories.

M. **Antifouling Paints or Coatings Containing Tributyltin (Subcategory of A).** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of antifouling paints or coatings containing tributyltin to control the growth of aquatic organisms on the hulls of ships.

**NOTE:** California law allows the use of this pesticide only on aluminum vessel hulls, commercial or recreational vessel hulls 82 feet or more in length, and on outboard motors and lower drive units.

N. **Sewer Line Root Control (Subcategory of A).** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides to control roots in the sewer line.

Q. **Maintenance Gardener (Subcategory of B).** This category allows a person to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides and/or any other pesticides, or certain substances, methods, or devices to control pests in landscape for hire only under the scope of a maintenance gardener pest control business license. *It does not include pest control work in areas such as golf courses, parks, cemeteries, or similar areas. This category does not include direct application to running or standing water.*

**NOTE:** The Q category designation is granted to any QAL or QAC with only category B- Landscape Maintenance who wish to downgrade to a Maintenance Gardener classification. This individual is working under a valid maintenance gardener pest control business license. The “Authorization to downgrade from category (B) Landscape Maintenance to subcategory (Q) Maintenance Gardener” form must be completed and submitted to DPR. This allows the QAL or QAC to obtain only eight (8) hours of continuing education (includes two (2) hours of laws and regulations) within a two-year period. Otherwise the possession of Category B requires meeting the 20 hours continuing education requirement (includes four hours of laws and regulations) within a two-year period.